

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION

DEREK L. BRIGGS,	§	
	§	
Petitioner,	§	
	§	
v.	§	Civil Action No. 3:12-CV-1263-L-BD
	§	
RICK THALER, Director	§	
Texas Department of Criminal Justice,	§	
Correctional Institutions Division,	§	
	§	
Respondent.	§	

ORDER

Before the court is Derek L. Briggs's ("Briggs" or "Petitioner") application for writ of habeas corpus, filed April 24, 2012, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The case was referred to Magistrate Judge Jeff Kaplan, who entered Findings, Conclusions and Recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge ("Report") on April 26, 2012, recommending that the habeas application be dismissed without prejudice for failure to exhaust state court remedies.

Briggs did not assert any specific objections to the Report. Instead, he appears to contend in a one paragraph statement, filed on May 8, 2012, that his conviction is unlawful because he is mentally ill, has only a sixth grade education, and has not received any assistance in prosecuting this action. Even construing Briggs' statement as an objection, it does not affect the magistrate judge's determination that he failed to exhaust state court remedies. The court therefore **overrules** the objection.

Having reviewed the pleadings, file, and record in this case, and the findings and conclusions of the magistrate judge, the court determines that the findings and conclusions of the magistrate

judge are correct, and **accepts** them as those of the court. Accordingly, the court **denies** Briggs's application for writ of habeas corpus, and **dismisses** this action **without prejudice**.

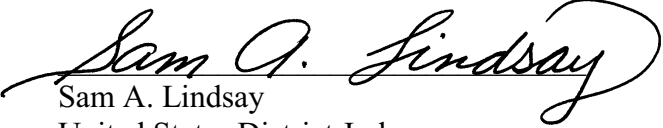
Considering the record in this case and pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22(b), Rule 11(a) of the Rules Governing §§ 2254 and 2255 proceedings, and 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c), the court **denies** a certificate of appealability.* The court determines that Petitioner has failed to show: (1) that reasonable jurists would find this court's "assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong;" or (2) that reasonable jurists would find "it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right" and "debatable whether [this court] was correct in its procedural ruling." *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000). In support of this determination, the court accepts and incorporates by reference the magistrate judge's report filed in this case. In the event that Petitioner files a notice of appeal, he must pay the \$455 appellate filing fee or submit a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* ("IFP"), unless he has been granted IFP status by the district court.

*Rule 11 of the Rules Governing §§ 2254 and 2255 Cases provides as follows:

(a) Certificate of Appealability. The district court must issue or deny a certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse to the applicant. Before entering the final order, the court may direct the parties to submit arguments on whether a certificate should issue. If the court issues a certificate, the court must state the specific issue or issues that satisfy the showing required by 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). If the court denies a certificate, the parties may not appeal the denial but may seek a certificate from the court of appeals under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22. A motion to reconsider a denial does not extend the time to appeal.

(b) Time to Appeal. Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 4(a) governs the time to appeal an order entered under these rules. A timely notice of appeal must be filed even if the district court issues a certificate of appealability.

It is so ordered this 10th of May, 2012.


Sam A. Lindsay
United States District Judge